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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on "From the Optical Disk System to the Official Documents System (ODS): status of implementation and evaluation"

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General (A/58/435) transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "From the Optical Disk System to the Official Documents System (ODS): status of implementation and evaluation". The Committee also had before it the comments of the Secretary-General on that report (A/58/438/Add.1). During its consideration of the item, the Committee held a videoconference with representatives of the Joint Inspection Unit, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee commends the Joint Inspection Unit for its report and notes that the Secretariat has accepted the bulk of the recommendations contained therein. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the context of his report on the pattern of conferences, to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that, according to supplementary information provided to it during its consideration of the proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005, provision was made for a total of $1,790,000 (before recosting), under section 29 D, Office of Central Support Services, for ODS ($260,000), to interface ODS with other critical applications in the Secretariat, and $1,530,000 for servers, software and storage space to provide free access to ODS through the Internet. **The Advisory Committee requests that, in future, information on the financial implication of extending usage of the system, including the long-term implications of processing reports published prior to the introduction of the system, be provided to the General Assembly.**

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4. As can be seen from annex II to document A/58/435, 50 per cent of Member States in Geneva and 70 per cent of Member States in Vienna have not requested access to ODS. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the low level of requested access to ODS by Member States in Geneva and Vienna is the result of a lack of awareness of the availability of the system. The Committee stresses the importance of modernizing, re-engineering and making ODS fully accessible to Member States; the Secretariat should publicize the availability of this facility.

5. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider the report of the Joint Inspection Unit in the light of its comments provided above.**